

H. R. 613.

[No Report.]

JANUARY 20, 1847.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RATHBUN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To establish a court at Key West, in the State of Florida.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 *all that part of the State of Florida lying south of a line drawn*
4 *due east and west from the northern point of Charlotte harbor,*
5 *including the islands, keys, reefs, shoals, harbors, bays, and inlets*
6 *south of said line, shall be erected into a new district, to be called*
7 *the southern district of Florida; and all that part of the State*
8 *lying north of said line shall be called the northern district of*
9 *Florida. A district court shall be held in said southern district,*
10 *to consist of one judge, who shall reside at Key West, in said*
11 *district, and be called a district judge; and shall in all things*
12 *have and exercise the same jurisdiction and powers which were*
13 *by law given to the judge of the Kentucky district under an act*
14 *entitled "An act to establish the judicial courts of the United*
15 *States." The said court shall have and exercise all the powers*

16 and jurisdiction of a district and circuit court of the United
17 States within the district aforesaid ; and appeals may be allowed
18 and writs of error sued out and made returnable in the su-
19 preme court in the same manner and under the same rules
20 and regulations as appeals and writs of error are allowed and
21 sued out from and to a circuit court. The judge shall appoint
22 a clerk, who shall reside and keep the records of the court at
23 the place of holding the same ; and shall receive for the ser-
24 vices he may perform, the same fees to which the clerk of the
25 Louisiana district is entitled for similar services.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the judge of said
2 district shall hold two regular terms of court in each year at Key
3 West—the one commencing on the first Monday in May, the
4 other on the first Monday of November, in each year. He shall
5 also hold extra sessions of said court from time to time as occa-
6 sion may require, to despatch the admiralty and maritime busi-
7 ness of said court ; and, for the purpose of hearing and deciding
8 all causes of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, the said court
9 shall be at all times open. But no jury, either grand or petit,
10 shall be summoned to attend any sitting of said court, without
11 the special order and direction of the judge.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That no vessel, nor
2 master thereof, shall be regularly employed in the business of
3 wrecking on the coast of Florida without the license of the
4 judge of said court ; and, before licensing any vessel or master,

5 the judge shall be satisfied that the vessel is seaworthy, and
6 properly and sufficiently fitted and equipped for the business of
7 saving property shipwrecked, and in distress ; and that the mas-
8 ter thereof is trustworthy, and innocent of any fraud or miscon-
9 duct in relation to any property shipwrecked or saved on said
10 coast.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be al-
2 lowed to the judge aforesaid an annual salary of two thousand
3 dollars, to be paid him quarterly from the time of his appoint-
4 ment.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be ap-
2 pointed in said district a person learned in the law to act as at-
3 torney for the United States, who shall, in addition to his stated
4 fees, be paid by the United States two hundred dollars as a full
5 compensation for all extra services.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be ap-
2 pointed in said district a marshal, who shall perform the same
3 duties, be subject to the same regulations and penalties, and be
4 entitled to the same fees, as are prescribed to marshals in other
5 districts ; and shall, moreover, be entitled to the sum of two
6 hundred dollars annually as a compensation for all extra services.